



**Needs Assessment Committee
Minutes
March 26, 2009
8:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2009

**Shelby County Administration Building
4th Floor Conference Room**

Committee members present:

Nisha Powers, Chairman

Scott Fleming, Vice-Chairman

Cato Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Jay Weatherington, Secretary

Aubrey Howard

David Pickler, SCS

Commissioner Mike Ritz

Steve Nelson

Committee members absent:

Commissioner Sidney Chism

Tomeka Hart

Others Present:

Grace Hutchinson

Maura Sullivan

Paula Lewis

Brian Shipp, MCS

John Zeanah, MCS

Carolyn Staskiewicz, DeJong

Denise Sharpe, MCS

Betty Mallott, MCS

Susan Roakes, U of M

Craig Willis, Asst. County Attorney

Nedra Jones, SCS

Richard Holden, SCS

Pam Antsy, MCS

Christopher Lurry, MCS

Shobhan Koneru, MCS

John Zeanah, MCS

Stephanie Jones, Commission office

1. Meeting Convened – Nisha Powers

Chairman Nisha Powers called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the January 9, 2009 Meeting – Nisha Powers

Motion: Jay Weatherington moved the approval of the minutes. Second by Aubrey Howard.

Action: Motion Approved.

Richard Holden of Shelby County Schools gave an update to their CIP plan stating that there has always been a concern with the Millington High School cafeteria. When the new building was built it ultimately put the cafeteria at the farthest point on the campus. This presents a problem when the weather is bad and also the cafeteria is too small and they have had to add an additional lunch period to accommodate the students. Their study shows that the existing gymnasium in the annex area could be converted to cafeteria space with a kitchen at the back. This would cost approximately \$1,250,000.00. The Shelby County School Board

sees this as an immediate need and has therefore taken the 2010 CIP projects and rearranged them to show the Millington cafeteria as highest priority. This adds \$1,250,000 to FY'10 projects.

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Chairman Powers stated that the NAC is going to change the guidelines for submittal from each school system and that will be discussed immediately following this meeting in a work session with both systems.

Chairman Powers then gave the Committee a report on her presentation of the 2008 Annual Report to the County Commission. She started by thanking both the City and County school systems for getting the information turned in such a timely manner so that the annual report could be completed. The biggest concern in the County Commission meeting was the difference in cost per square foot between the two systems and why the City schools are so much more expensive to build. Chairman Powers responded that the NAC doesn't have the authority to do any more than present the information that has been gathered from the school systems. We were not charged with having the school systems present with uniform cost per square foot dollars. We have however, provided a range that the systems should fall into. If the systems do not fall into that range, it is up to them to explain to the County Commission why not.

Cato Johnson asked Commissioner Ritz if there is anything other than what is in the annual report that the Commissioners would want to see and the Commissioner said no. He stated that the County Commission is very interested in seeing the detail of this annual report to assist them in making decisions. They are expecting the NAC to give these projects the most thorough review possible before they come to the Commission. Last years report and this years report shows that the school population is going down. Requesting to build new schools will be a huge hurdle to cross. Students are moving around within the city and county but are not necessarily increasing.

The question was asked if we ever get the final results and costs of these projects and Grace Hutchinson stated that the final account does take a while, even several years but the school boards could submit a report and maybe submit a mid-year report to the Commission.

The City Schools are on schedule to present their 5 year CIP plan to the NAC by June 30 2009.

The next scheduled meeting of the NAC will be on May 7, 2009.

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Cato Johnson, Second by Scott Fleming.
Action: Meeting adjourned at 9:10

Jay Weatherington, Secretary

Date